

## Message Text

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67

ACTION DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 L-02 IO-03 COA-01 EB-03 SCI-03

PRS-01 DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01 FEA-01 DRC-01

EUR-10 /065 W

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R 252241Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3301

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 1230

LIMDIS

FOR DLOS, COA AND SCI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, TPHY, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIANS REEXAMINE LOS RESEARCH POSITION

1. SENIOR OFFICIAL, CANADIAN MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WHO IS HIGHLY RESPECTED IN OTTAWA POLICYMAKING CIRCLES, INFORMED SCIATT, APRIL 24, ON "VERY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS" THAT EVER SINCE THE CANADIAN POSITION ON OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH WAS PRESENTED AT LAST US-CANADIAN LOS DISCUSSIONS IN OTTAWA, EFFORTS HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY TO MODIFY POSITION. PRINCIPAL THRUST HAS BEEN FROM IN-HOUSE AND UNIVERSITY OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMUNITY ON BASIS THAT POSITION WOULD JEOPARDIZE CANADA'S SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. ACCORDING TO THIS CANADIAN OFFICIAL, THESE FORCES WERE RECENTLY JOINED BY SEVERAL ELEMENTS WITHIN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL PART OF THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES AND RESOURCES (EM&R). THE BASIS FOR EM&R'S SUPPORT APPEARS TO BE RECOGNITION THAT FROM A RESOURCE AND ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW, CANADA STANDS TO GAIN MORE FROM AN OPEN POLICY VIS-A-VIS RESEARCH THAN FROM A RESTRICTIVE ONE.

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2. APPARENTLY ABOVE COALITION OF INTERESTS WAS ABLE TO GAIN

APPROVAL TO PREPARE A NEW POLICY PAPER FOR CABINET CONSIDERATION. THIS PAPER IS IN PREPARATION, AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT IT WILL BE DELIVERED TO CABINET WITHIN A MONTH. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, PAPER WILL RECOMMEND POSITION APPRECIABLY CLOSER TO U.S. POSITION BUT, FOR REASON OF POLITICAL ACCEPTABILITY, CANNOT GO ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S. POSITION. SOURCE FELT THAT WITH THE BACKING OF MINISTERS DAVIS AND MACDONALD THERE WAS A "REASONABLE CHANCE" OF OVERCOMING OPPOSITION FROM THOSE SUPPORTING MORE RESTRICTIVE NATIONALISTIC VIEW.

3. DURING DISCUSSION, TIMING OF PAPER TO CABINET WAS CONSIDERED IN RELATION TO POSSIBILITY THAT PRESENT MINORITY GOVERNMENT MIGHT FALL OVER BUDGET SUBMISSION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 6. ON THIS POINT, SOURCE FELT THAT THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE THAT A CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY AFFECT ACCEPTANCE OF PAPER'S RECOMMENDATIONS. APPARENTLY, SOME OF THOSE PUSHING FOR NEW POSITION HAVE TAKEN THE PRECAUTION OF QUIETLY CONSULTING WITH CONSERVATIVE PARTY SCIENCE CRITIC. THE DANGER WHICH SOURCE FORESAW WAS THAT, IF ELECTION CALLED BEFORE A NEW FAVORABLE CABINET DECISION WAS MADE, EXPONENTS OF MORE RESTRICTIVE VIEW MIGHT SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICIZE EXISTING POSITION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO MAKE IT AWKWARD FOR A NEW GOVERNMENT TO TAKE PROMPT DECISION WHICH MIGHT BE INTERPRETED AS BACKING DOWN.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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